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wanted on canning, drying, food storage and other related subjects, and requested that members of the section willing to prepare such lists offer their services at once for that purpose.

The Nominating committee, consisting of Miss Ogden, Miss Galloway and Miss Derby, nominated the following officers for

the coming year, and on motion they were elected:

Chairman, George A. Deveneau, librarian College of Agriculture, University of Illinois.

Secretary, Mary C. Lacy, Library of the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

CATALOG SECTION

Miss Edna L. Goss, of the University of Minnesota Library, chairman of the Catalog Section, was unable to attend the conference, and Miss Margaret Mann, of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, acted as chairman of both sessions.

FIRST SESSION

For the first meeting, held on Friday evening, June 22, a program for a symposium on classification making had been arranged by Mr. A. Law Voge, Mechanics' Mercantile Library, San Francisco, secretary of the Decimal classification advisory committee, the subject being presented at this time especially to foster the interest of the subcommittees working on classification expansion and revision.

Dr. C. W. Andrews, librarian of the John Crerar Library, Chicago, read the first paper, on

PRINCIPLES OF CLASSIFICATION MAKING (See p. 195)

Mr. J. Christian Bay, of the John Crerar Library, followed with a paper on

CLASSIFICATION (See p. 199)

The subject of a paper by Mr. Henry E. Bliss, of the College of the City of New York, was

THE PROBLEM AND THEORY OF LIBRARY CLASSIFICATION (See p. 200)

Mr. Charles A. Flagg, librarian of the Bangor (Me.) Public Library, presented a paper on

CLASSIFICATION MAKING (See p. 198)

Mr. A. Law Voge, of the Mechanics' Mercantile Library, San Francisco, also had as the subject of his paper

CLASSIFICATION MAKING (See p. 190)

"Some notes on classification," by Mr. W. I. Fletcher, librarian emeritus of Amherst College Library, form his last contribution to library science, as word of his death was received during the Conference. The notes, read by the secretary, are as follows:

"Almost 'sixty years after' I find myself favoring a simple classification, by which I mean one with few subdivisions, as opposed to the elaborate schemes with their careful provision of a separate place on the shelves and in the notation for every minutest change in subject.

"The almost universal adoption of the Cutter author-table suggests the making of fewer classes and the exact alphabetical placing of the books in the resultant large classes. Most of our libraries have already applied this principle to fiction and to bibliography; I would advise carrying it much further. History, for example, may have period divisions only for the larger and more important countries, and in local history, in libraries outside New England, for example, New England may form one class, with exact alphabetical arrangement. This view is submitted in the belief that there is something in it.

"I have given much thought to the dilemma in which libraries are being caught by the rapid progress of knowledge in all departments. Either they must be content a few years hence, to live under a system rapidly becoming antiquated, or they must find some way to introduce a certain fluidity into their systems, so that there may be a change from time to time to meet the demands of a new day. I don't know how this is to be done; it is for the

new generation of librarians now coming on the stage to devise. I do feel confident, however, that one great help in the solution of this difficulty will be found in the idea advocated in my first paragraph."

Mr. George W. Lee, of Stone and Webster, Boston, expressed the opinion that an existing classification should be used if possible, and offered five tentative suggestions for "beginners or the uninitiated" in forming a new system. He emphasized the necessity of a "sponsorship" for classification, where all questions on classification and of interest and import to classifiers should be sent, and suggested the Decimal classification advisory committee as such sponsor.

A humorous skit against close classification and elaborate notation, by Mr. Joseph C. Rowell, University of California Library, afforded a bit of merriment in the serious discussion.

In a paper by Mr. W. S. Merrill of the Newberry Library, Chicago (privately printed), on "Printing the headings of a system of classification on guide cards," the writer told of the experiment, started at the Newberry Library three years ago, of multigraphing classification headings and class numbers upon tabbed guide cards. These guides are filed before the subject cards grouped under their respective subjects in the classed catalog and all subject headings omitted upon the subject cards. This omission saves looking up the precise form of heading to be typed on each card, the labor of typing and its revision. His mention of this at this time was to suggest that the Decimal classification advisory committee should issue sets of tabbed guide cards corresponding to the headings that appear in the printed classification and sell these to libraries using this scheme.

These guides could be inserted at once in the classed catalog and no future subject headings at all need be typed on subject cards. A further consideration was that by printed guides issued by the proprietor of a system of classification, new headings could be promptly supplied to users of that system and thus classifiers

be provided with facilities for keeping their work abreast of the literature they are called upon to handle. Much interest was shown in Mr. Merrill's sample guide cards.

Dr. C. W. Andrews, chairman of the Decimal classification advisory committee, read extracts from his report of that committee which has been printed in the A. L. A. Report of Committees, for 1916-17. In supplementing his report Dr. Andrews said it was the intention of the committee to issue lists showing questions submitted with the committee's decisions based upon recommendations. He stated it was surprising to see how the committee members differed, and that those submitting questions should bear this in mind when answers are slow in coming.

Mr. Voge asked for volunteers to help in the work of the committees formed to bring in classifications this year.

The meeting then adjourned.

SECOND SESSION

The second session devoted to cataloging was held Monday morning, June 25, and was opened by a paper by Mr. Linn R. Blanchard, of the Newberry Library, Chicago, on

SOME CATALOGERS' REFERENCE BOOKS OF RECENT YEARS
(See p. 203)

Miss Theresa Hitchler, of the Brooklyn Public Library, read a paper by Miss Minnie E. Sears, of the New York Public Library, on

THE ORGANIZATION OF A CATALOGING DEPARTMENT
(See p. 207)

In the discussion Miss Hitchler said she was glad the human side of cataloging was at last being considered, since the efficiency of the library depends upon the catalog and the efficiency of the catalogers depends upon their happiness. She told of the *esprit de corps* of her department, of how her staff works with her and not for her, and of the importance of discovering potentialities which when encouraged are to the best advantage of the entire system.

Miss Julia Pettee, of the Union Theological Seminary, mentioned that that institution encouraged catalogers to take college courses on library time.

In continuing this subject by statements of the actual organization of work in several libraries, Miss Hitchler spoke of the Brooklyn Public Library, Miss Mann of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Miss Sophie K. Hiss of the Cleveland Public Library, and Miss Mary E. Baker of the University of Missouri Library. The papers were exhaustive and illuminating and especially vital from their showing that in the main the same routine is followed in all libraries and that processes differ only slightly. The three libraries reported that all use printed cards (one printing its own) and centralize the cataloging for branches and other agencies at the main library, from which cards are sent. The head cataloger has the executive control of the department and is responsible for all the work.

All particularly emphasized the necessity for cordial coöperation between the cataloging, reference and order departments, and the desirability of inviting criticism and suggestions from other departments and the public. The staff is divided into trained experts and clerical assistants, and change of work is allowed in each group to avoid monotony and foster interest as well as to keep the staff flexible. The sense of the importance of the cataloger's place in the library's organization and of her inspiration through work with the public was urged as a means of keeping catalogers from seeking other fields of library work as being more attractive.

The last part of the program was given to a discussion on "Coöperative cataloging," introduced by Mr. Philip S. Goulding, of the University of Illinois Library. Mr. Goulding said:

"Coöperative cataloging, in its stricter sense, of course means the working together of various libraries on their cataloging, but it has come of late to mean the preparation and distribution of cards by

some central bureau. The need for some improved methods of coöperative cataloging is quite evident, as head catalogers and librarians all know how nearly impossible it is to secure good catalogers at any price whatever. This will in time lead to an extension of the present methods of coöperative work.

"At present there is very little coöperative cataloging in the stricter sense, the only notable example being the A. L. A. periodical cards, copy for which is furnished by some half a dozen coöperating libraries, and the cards printed and distributed by a central bureau. In the more usual sense the only considerable instances are the Library of Congress and the John Crerar Library, whose output is so invaluable to most libraries, large and small, throughout the country. Other large libraries have started a distribution similar to these, notably the Harvard College Library, which still continues, but covers a limited field and holds stock not over thirty days; such also was the work of the University of Chicago Library and the University of California Library, both of which now have discontinued it, to the regret of many besides ourselves. Many still print or multigraph cards, as for example the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, the New York Public Library, the University of Michigan Library, the St. Louis Public Library, and others, including my own library in Illinois; but these are mainly for the use of the library making them, and are not sold to other libraries nor made available for actual use in other catalogs, although exchanges are carried on between many of these libraries and others I have mentioned, chiefly for the purpose of inter-library loans.

"In the *Library Journal*, October, 1915, plans for coöperative cataloging were suggested by Mr. Blease, an English librarian, and may be worth a few remarks here. He outlined three plans: First, the making of a union catalog by the coöperating libraries. This of course would not at all serve the purposes we are now considering and so needs no further discussion. Second, coöperative work by means of exchange of slips, each library to be responsible for a certain class or section which it has developed and in which it has specialized. This would involve some care in outlining a routine for such exchange of slips, as well as many compromises in the forms to be used and in the distribution of costs for the printing and distribution of the finished cards among the coöperating libraries, but some modification of it might possibly be worked out that would in the

end prove feasible. Third, a combination of the Booklist and the Library of Congress, by which a central bureau would select books thought desirable for purchase by the cooperating libraries, send out lists to those libraries, and proceed forthwith to the cataloging and preparation of printed cards. These lists would be checked for purchase by each library, returned to the central bureau and cards furnished accordingly. The expenses of the bureau would be met by assessing each library a sum based on its expenditures for books per annum, and the books secured would, I suppose, become its property, although I am not sure on this point. This plan might be excellent for the smaller and the public libraries, but I doubt its value for the larger, reference or university libraries, owing to the large proportion of technical, foreign and similar material purchased by this class.

"Mr. R. H. Johnston, of the Bureau of Railway Economics, outlined in a recent number of the *Library Journal* a plan for cooperative work that might bear serious consideration. He proposes to furnish any library wishing them with stenciled cards for analytics of his railway engineering periodicals, at cost or perhaps free of all charge. This stencil plan might very easily be used in other large and highly specialized libraries, and much helpful work accomplished thereby."

Continuing this discussion Mr. Charles Martel, of the Library of Congress, said that the Library of Congress was trying to make cards more useful by simplifying the headings. He said that there was much interest shown in reference cards and the desire was expressed that they be printed and also that open entries be reprinted. Time did not permit of further discussion of this most important problem and the desire was expressed that it be included in next year's program of this section.

Mr. J. C. M. Hanson, of the University of Chicago Library, announced that the A. L. A. Catalog committee would meet in January, and that its chairman, Mr. W. W. Bishop, of the University of Michigan Library, wanted suggestions for the work of his committee.

The Nominating committee, through its chairman, Mr. Voge, proposed Miss Adelaide F. Evans, of the Detroit Public Library, as chairman for the coming year, and Miss Mary E. Baker, University of Missouri, secretary. They were elected and the meeting adjourned.

BESSIE GOLDBERG,
Secretary.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS' SECTION

The first meeting of the Children's Librarian's Section was held in the Auditorium of the Seelbach Hotel, Friday evening, June 22. Miss Alice M. Jordan, Boston Public Library, presided and introduced Miss Sarah C. N. Bogle, principal of the Carnegie Library School, who struck the keynote of the meeting in her paper,

PREPAREDNESS TO MEET NEW EDUCATIONAL
DEMANDS

(See p. 153)

Miss Bernice Bell, Louisville Free Public Library, considered the subject of preparedness to meet racial problems, in a paper entitled

THE COLORED BRANCHES OF THE LOUISVILLE
FREE LIBRARY

(See p. 169)

She gave an account of the work done in the colored branches of Louisville, dwelling particularly on the reading interests of colored children and their joy in the dramatic expression afforded them by the story hour. Opportunity was given at once to test the last statement, when Virginia Allen, aged 10, winner of the intermediate story-telling contest, told "The fisherman and his wife," and Blyden Jackson, aged 6, winner of the primary story-telling contest, told "The ginger-bread boy." The children had not been trained for the occasion, being allowed to tell the stories in their own way, which they did with great naturalness and keen enjoyment of the situations.

Miss Bertha E. Mahony, director of the